



Illinois State Senator William Delgado expressed concern after Governor Quinn's budget address today before members of the General Assembly.

"The Governor has called on state agencies to reduce their budgets by at least nine percent; however, this can't be done without firing workers and discontinuing essential services to the neediest in our state," said Senator Delgado, Chairman of the Public Health Committee. "I understand we need to cut budgets, but we must not cut essential programs, instead we need to look at alternatives before making these drastic decisions that will affect those most in need."

In addition, the Governor's proposal has absolutely no increases to after-school programs.

"These are vital programs in my district," said Delgado. "Our youth need a safe place to go after school. These programs keep our kids off the streets and out of trouble."

Although the Governor's proposal includes a billion dollars towards building classrooms that will bring students into the digital age. Senator Delgado pointed out that those funds might be better utilized on teachers, textbook, or a safe way for students to get to school.

On top of these cuts, Governor Quinn announced cutting corrections facilities that house juvenile offenders in the Chicago region and adult transitional programs that are instrumental in helping ex-offenders transition back into society.

"The governor's budget does not reflect the priorities of my community. We are going to have to work together to prioritize the budget," said Delgado. "I am ready to roll up my sleeves and work on cutting areas that won't take these critical services out of the community."